

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

(1) Cancel claims 1-4

(2) Amend claims 5, 7 – 10 and 15

(3) Add new claims 18-21, as follows in the complete listing of all claims:

[c1] (cancelled)

[c2] (cancelled)

[c3] (cancelled)

[c4] (cancelled)

[c5] (currently amended) An insulated animal shelter comprising:

- a) a box having at least one flap opening to expose the interior cross-section of said box, with an opening formed in one side of said box,
- b) a plurality of substantially rigid foam panels disposed on each interior surface of said box, wherein the panel disposed adjacent to the opening on one side of said box has a corresponding opening that forms an entrance and exit portal for the insulated animal shelter, wherein an animal shelter inside said box is exposed directly to the foam insulating material without an intervening barrier.~~An insulated animal shelter according to claim 1 further comprising~~
- c) a curtain covering the entrance and exit portal.

[c6] (original) An insulated animal shelter according to claim 5 wherein the curtain is a sheet of flexible plastic having a sequence of vertical slits to form a sequence of narrow flexible drapes.

[c7] (currently amended) An insulated animal shelter according to claim [[1]] 5 further comprising a cushioning material disposed on the upper surface of said box.

[c8] (currently amended) An insulated animal shelter according to claim [[1]] 5 comprising two flaps which fold down to form a side of the box, wherein the opening that forms the entrance and exit portal is disposed on a different side of said box.

[c9] (currently amended) An insulated animal shelter according to claim [[8]] 5 wherein the box is fabricated from folded plastic based corrugated board.

[c10] (currently amended) A kit for constructing an animal shelter, the kit comprising:

- a) ~~a prefabricated panel plastic based corrugated board adapted to be formed into a box having a least one portal on a portion of a side surface, a prefabricated plastic panel based corrugated board adapted to be formed into a box having a least one portal on a portion of a side surface, the portal being smaller than and laterally offset from the side of the box, and the top surface forming the roof of the shelter.~~
- b) a plurality of substantially rigid foam boards having dimensions corresponding to the inside dimensions of each of the side surfaces of the box to be formed from the prefabricated plastic panel, wherein at least one panel substantially rigid foam boards has a hole formed therein to align with the portal in the side of the box.
- c) wherein the substantially rigid foam boards are dimensioned to fit against the vertical walls of said box while being shortened in height to support another substantially rigid foam board that is intended to fit under the top surface that forms the roof of the shelter.

[c11] – [c14] (cancelled)

[c15] (currently amended) An insulated animal shelter comprising:

- a) a box having at least one opening to expose ~~the~~ a portion of the interior cross-section of said box, the opening formed in one vertical side of said box,
- b) a plurality of vertically disposed substantially rigid foam panels adjacent each the interior lateral surfaces of said box,
- c) a lower substantially rigid foam panel resting on the bottom interior surface of said box,
- d) an upper substantially rigid foam panel disposed adjacent the top interior surface of said box to support the exterior roof of said box, said upper substantially rigid foam panel resting on the edges of two or more of said vertically disposed substantially rigid foam panels,
- e) wherein at least one of said vertically disposed substantially rigid foam panels ~~disposed adjacent to the opening on one side of said box has a corresponding opening that forms~~ is open to to dispose the same portion of the interior cross-section of said box as the opening in the box, thus forming an entrance and exit portal for the insulated animal shelter.

[c16] (previously presented) An insulated animal shelter according to claim 15 wherein the box is fabricated from folded plastic based corrugated board.

[c17] (currently amended) An insulated animal shelter according to claim 16 further comprising a cushioning material disposed on the lower substantially rigid foam panel ~~on the upper surface of said box~~, whereby said upper substantially rigid foam panel ~~having~~ has a thickness of at last about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch so as to have sufficient strength to support a small animal sitting on said cushioning material.

[c18] (new) A method of sheltering a small animal, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a box having at least one flap opening to expose the interior cross-section of said box, with an opening formed in one side of said box,
- b) providing a plurality of substantially rigid foam panels,
- c) disposing a substantially rigid foam panel on each interior surface of said box, wherein the panel disposed adjacent to the opening on one side of said box has a corresponding opening that forms an entrance and exit portal for the insulated animal shelter,
- d) sheltering an animal in the box wherein the animal shelter inside said box is exposed directly to the foam insulating material without an intervening barrier.

[c19] (new) The method according to claim 18 further comprising the step of disposing a cushion covered with a flexible outer covering on the substantially rigid foam panel resting on the bottom interior surface of said box.

[c20] (new) An insulated animal shelter comprising:

- a) a box having at least one opening to expose the interior cross-section of said box, the opening formed in one vertical side of said box,
- b) a plurality of vertically disposed substantially rigid foam panels adjacent the interior lateral surfaces of said box,
- c) a lower substantially rigid foam panel resting on the bottom interior surface of said box,
- d) an upper substantially rigid foam panel disposed adjacent the top interior surface of said box to support the exterior roof of said box, said upper substantially rigid foam panel resting on the edges of two or more of said vertically disposed substantially rigid foam panels,
- e) wherein at least one of said vertically disposed substantially rigid foam panels disposed adjacent to the opening on one side of said box has a corresponding opening that forms an entrance and exit portal for the insulated animal shelter, the opening being above the top of said lower substantially rigid foam panel resting on the bottom interior surface of said box,
- f) a cushion covered with a flexible outer covering disposed on the top of said lower substantially rigid foam panel resting on the bottom interior surface of said box.

[c21] (new) An insulated animal shelter according to claim 20 wherein the box is fabricated from folded plastic based corrugated board.

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